of the plantation growers. So, the crop size is fixed keeping this factor in mind. Despite this, because of certain social constraints, some of the plantation growers either have an excess growth or an unauthorised growth. For that purpose, penalty is imposed in order to discourage the growers of excess or unauthorised tobacco. This, besides economic growth, also has certain social constraints. So far, that proposal is continuing. As far as quality is concerned, it is the market which decides it, and this year, for instance, auctions are all over in Karnataka, and the average price across the season, which the Karnataka tobacco has fetched, is a little more than Rs. 43 per Kg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 608...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling Question No. 608... *(Interruptions)* It will not go on record. Yes, Question No. 608.

Action Plan for the broadcasting sector

*608. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI: DR.
T. SUBB ARAMI REDDY: †

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a working group with representatives of Ministry of Finance, the Administrative Ministry, State Governments, financial institutions and the industry to work out an action plan for the broadcasting sector ;

(b) if so, what will be the main functions of this group;

(c) whether they have made any recommendations;

(d) if so, whether Government have accepted the recommendations of this group;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when, they are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Questions do not arise.

DR. T. SUBB ARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this question is related to entertainment industry, that is, films and T. V And, entertainment industry is the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

biggest industry in the world. So, I want to point out that the hon. Minister on the 31 st March — Mr. Arun Jaitley is also here — felt extremely happy and complimented the film industry and said that in the Exim Policy, export and import policy, the entertainment industry plays a very important role. He proposed to set up a working group with the representatives of the Ministry of Finance, State Governments and financial institutions to help the entertainment indusrty. Of course, we said, 'No', 'No'. I would like to know from you, whether you are going to set up any working group like this, consisting of representatives of financial institutions, State Governments and the I & B Ministry to give a greater boost to the export-import of film industry.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, if hon. Dr. Subbarami Reddy will see his question, his question is about the broadcasting ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Yes, broadcasting section consists of film industry also. I know it. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD : Now, let me reply. And he being an experienced film-maker himself would also know that broadcasting is separate from films. *(Interruptions)*

श्री सभापति : यह किसने कहा आपको कि ये एक्सपीरिऐंस्ड फिल्म मेकर हैं ?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: But, Sir, since he made a specific query about the film sector, I want to assure the hon. Member that taking the legacy of Arun Jaitley and Sushmaji, we all are quite committed to carry on the pace of reform in the film sector, so that Indian films have a globally competitive market and good films are created. And we are also making institutional changes so that there is a good provision for local shooting in India. Films have been declared an industry. There is more provision for financing, and all these things are an ongoing process.

DR T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Even though Mr. Ravi Shankar is the Information and Broadcasting Minister, he should not forget that he is a Minister for film industry also. He keeps going to Bombay for film functions, and a number of other functions also. The I&B Ministry has been dreaming of making the film industry of India, the biggest film industry in the world. But they need help from banks and financial institutions. As per the information available, the process is absolutely nil and zero. So, I want a specific answer from you. What efforts are you making to make the Indian Film Industry top in the world by mobilising and inspiring the institutions, such as banks and

financial institutions, to pave a smooth way in giving financial assistance to make the best film which all of you will enjoy ?

MR. CHAIRMAN: All of you enjoy!

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, as the hon. Member would certainly know ultimately, a good film has a good content And if the film is properly made, even a small film creates global waves. Monsoon Wedding, bend it like Bechham, Devdas, Sakia, a whole lot of films had their funds from very non-formal sources. Therefore, the content has to be good. Yes, he has a point that the Government has to take an initiative. We are sensitising the banking institutions, but they will also have to understand that they will have to bring in corporate governance in their own sector to attract more funds. It is a two way traffic, he needs to appreciate that

श्री सभापति : मंत्री जी, आप मेरे एक प्रश्न का उत्तर दीजिए कि इन्होंने जो पिक्चर बनाई, वह बॉक्स आफिस पर कितनी पिट गई ?

*609. [The questioners (Shri Ram Jethmalani and Shri Kapil Sibal) were absent for answer *vide page* 37-38 *infrd]*.

In initiatives to double the Exports by 2007

*610. DR. TSUBBARAMI REDDY : †

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sharp recovery on the export front with cumulative export growth of 20.36 per cent in the first three quarters of the current fiscal year has provided Government with an option to go for innovative policy initiatives to double the exports by 2007 to a level of over $ 80 billion;

(b) if so, whether the recent war on Iraq has had an impact on the exports;

(c) if so, whether Government have announced duty-free import facility for service providers; and

(d) if so, to what extent this will improve the export position ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

---

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.